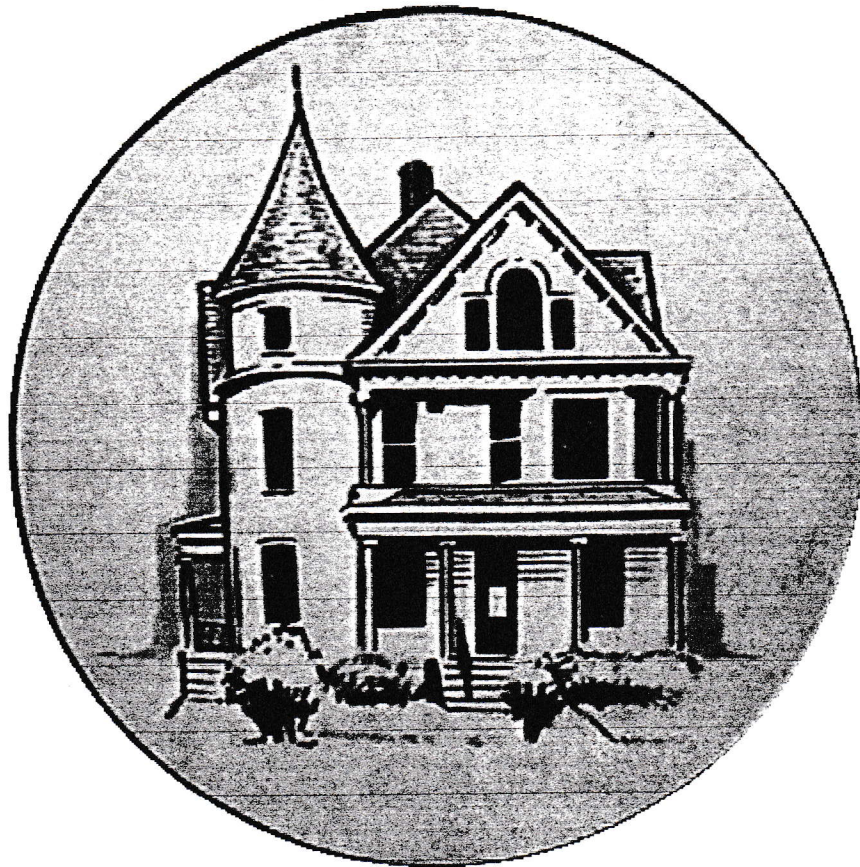


THE CATHARINE V. YOST
MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY



2000 ANNUAL REPORT

NARRATIVE

Each year we begin with a reflection of the year behind us. This year is no different. As we look back over the past year we continue to see growth and changes, which continue to improve our Museum, and it's ability to serve our community. This year brought us new challenges, new volunteers and new enhancements to the home. We look forward to the next year and the opportunity to continue to bring enjoyment to the citizens of Pontiac and Livingston County.

MUSEUM ATTENDANCE AND VOLUNTEER HOURS

Despite the best attempts at controlling climate inside the museum Mother Nature has her own ideas for outside. Heritage days was cancelled just minutes after beginning by a torrential downpour the few left to brave the rain huddled under umbrellas just long enough to get to their cars. Luminaria evening had its own problems. It also was cancelled due to bitter cold and high winds. Although these cancellations affected turnout for the scheduled events the museum hosted three hundred and eighty-five visitors during the 2000 season. Volunteers logged eight hundred and seventy-eight hours in service at the home.

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 17, 2000 – DIALECTIC SOCIETY MEETING

After two previous attempts, which were foiled by bad weather Dialectic Society Members finally met on this Monday afternoon. Members began with a short business meeting and election of new officers. Members were then treated to a slide presentation about the Yost Family and Pontiac which included scenes from the first half of the 20th Century. The meeting was then concluded by a tour of the house.

FEBRUARY 12, 2000 - DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

An annual event at the Yost Museum, the Daughters of the American Revolution host their Good Citizenship Awards Banquet. Honored at this ceremony are four award winners and guests. They, along with the members were entertained by the program presented and then were provided refreshments.

MARCH 28, 2000 – LIONESSE CLUB TOUR

Marcia Cox was the hostess for the March gathering of Pontiac's Lioness Club. After gathering for a dinner meeting at a local dining establishment the group finished off the evening by dropping in for an entertaining tour of the Museum.

APRIL 11, 2000 – PONTIAC ROTARY CLUB

An invitation was extended by the Pontiac Rotary Club for the presentation of a program/slide show during a Rotary Lunch meeting. For this presentation the older version of the slide show was rewritten and a newer version, complete with photos of the Yost family and Pontiac scenes was assembled. This allowed not only information to be shared about the Yost family but also about the place where they chose to spend their lives.

APRIL 12, 2000 – OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN SCHOOL, CHICAGO

Thirty-three members of the Our Saviour Lutheran School in Chicago were treated to a bit of small town charm as Betty Estes led them on a tour of Pontiac. After several stops around town they were given a tour of the Yost Museum and the Jones House, both of which were enjoyed by all.

MAY 7, 2000 – SPRING OPEN HOUSE

Victorian Customs were the focus of the 2000 Spring opening. As visitors to the home wandered through the house, guides entertained them with stories of Victorian life. The Dining Room was set for afternoon tea while the Yost ladies sat attentively ready to accept their callers.

MAY 13, 2000 – VICTORIAN GIRL TEA PARTY

An important part of Victorian life was the taking of tea. Much thought was given to who should be invited, what should be served, and what entertainment should be provided. In honor of Mother's Day we attempted to host a Victorian Girl Tea Party. Although we did not receive enough reservations to meet our minimum requirement we learned much about this Victorian custom and plan to use that research to host an identical party in 2001.

MAY 22, 2000 – DISCOVERY TOUR

Brenda Thompson makes it an annual tradition to teach her fourth grade class about the town they live in. She reviews with them local history lessons and then, to allow them a more memorable time she escorts her students back into the Pontiac of yesteryear. Brenda's students annually tour the Yost Museum during their Pontiac history lesson. This year however they were met with a newly revamped discovery tour. Students on the tour have been allowed to wash with a washboard, help clean a lamp, stitch on a cross stitch and other similar activities. However this year several new activities were added. The most popular seemed to be the study of the tradition of making and receiving calls. This year all of Brenda's students placed calls to the Yost family leaving their calling cards in the calling card box. Most felt this was a "neat" idea and some even spoke of implementing this procedure in their homes. The one thing that became clear in the next weeks however was that the students did learn much on their tours. Many returned during Sunday hours bringing parents and grandparents who seemed amazed at all their student had learned.

MAY 27, 2000 – SMITH BRIDAL SHOWER

Jennifer Smith was the guest of honor at a bridal shower held at the home on this Saturday afternoon hosted by her best friends Gretchen Wolf and Jennifer Gerber. Jennifer, who has always loved old homes was surprised by this special treat when her mother brought her to the home to “tour”. Much to her surprise all of her friends were already gathered inside with their gifts. Presents were opened and refreshments were served. Guests who wished to were also given a tour of the home.

JUNE 17, 2000 – HANG LOOSE WEEKEND

As part of Pontiac’s annual Hang Loose Weekend the Museum was open on Saturday June 17 as well as regular hours on Sunday June 18th. Costumed characters welcomed visitors to the home as they traveled between the Courthouse Square and Humiston Riverside Park.

JULY 25, 2000 – SHOW BUS

Thirteen Show Bus passengers joined Betty Estes for a tour of Pontiac. Their tour made several stops including a stop for a tour of the Yost Museum. The Show Bus had on several occasions attempted to arrange a Christmas Tour of the Yost Museum, however scheduling conflicts finally caused organizers to move the tour to Summer.

AUGUST 5, 2000 – HERITAGE DAYS FISHING DISPLAY

Our Heritage Days Display featured one of Mr. Yost’s favorite pastimes – Fishing. With poles, lures, nets and baskets this display highlighted the collection of Mr. Yost. Additional pieces were on loan from the collection of Theresa Johnson and Rory and Jamie Gawthorpe. These included special lures and fly fishing bait. A highlight was an antique Faulstaff advertisement which featured two fearless fishermen on a camping trip. Although attendance to this event was doused by the downpour this display was enjoyed by all who attended.

AUGUST 26, 2000 – RUSTIC AUTO CLUB

Suburban Rustic Auto Owners ventured down Route 66 for a weekend of tours and stops. One of their stops brought them to Pontiac where they toured the Yost and Jones Houses, Chautauqua Park and then dessert – pie at the Apple Tree Restaurant. Fifteen members of the club were present for the tour.

OCTOBER 12, 2000 – ABACO ROTARY STUDENTS

Keora Brown and Terrinique Rennerman traveled from Abaco, Bahamas with their chaperone Dr. Denise Archer. Keora and Terrinique are foreign exchange students through the Pontiac Rotary Club who spent two weeks in the Pontiac area with Rotary Club Members. The girls were interested in touring part of the United States as they hope to attend College here. Betty Estes accompanied the three on a tour of Pontiac which featured shopping, eating, touring the Yost and Jones Houses and other sight seeing.

OCTOBER 20, 2000 – COUNTY CLERKS MEETING

Judith McGlasson, Livingston County Clerk hosted the October meeting of the County Clerks Association. Several members of the County Clerks organization gathered to discuss procedures, new legislatures and local election rules and regulations. After a business meeting a catered lunch was served. All in attendance were then treated to a tour of the home.

DECEMBER 1, 2000 – ATHENIA CLUB MEETING

Betty Estes, Faye Exton, Marjorie Sandford, and Marguerite Mies hosted the December meeting of the Athenia club. Members gathered at the home and held a short business meeting followed by a tea. A presentation was then given on the Yost Family and the Yost House which included a tour of the home. All then returned to the library where a Christmas Carol sing along was led by Marguerite Mies accompanied by Ruth McCabe who played the home's baby grand piano.

DECEMBER 2, 2000 – LEENDERS/OESCHLAGER WEDDING

On December 2 the Yost Museum played host to the Wedding ceremony of Jennifer Leenders and Michael Oeschlager. The couple were married by Judge Harold Frobish with fifty-two guests present. Accompanied by their attendants the bride and groom exchanged vows in front of the large dinning room window while music from a violin/cello duet provided traditional wedding songs. The newlyweds then followed a runner of red carpeting through a barrage of bubbles to their waiting limousine. A reception was held later in the evening at Baby Bulls Fine Dinning.

DECEMBER 3, 2000 – CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Our Christmas Open House is held on the first Sunday of December and each year. This is the first opportunity for the public to see the Museum in it's Christmas decorations. During this year's open house the public viewed Christmas Traditions from around the world. Volunteers researched and recreated Christmas Traditions from several countries. Each room represented traditions from a particular country. As guests were escorted through the home they were given a narrative documenting the customs displayed.

DECEMBER 17, 2000 – CHRISTMAS LUMINARIA DISPLAY

Annually the Museum hosts a special display during Pontiac's Luminaria Display. Although the display was postponed this year the Museum remained open. Character actors portrayed natives from our featured countries, helping to enhance the ability of the visitors to fully understand the customs of other countries. In Poland Mark and Tim Thannam joined Julie, Joel and Caleb Smith in portraying Polish customs. In Ireland Linda Volk explained customs while baking typical Irish treats for guests. Natalie Thannam donned a wreath of candles to portray Sweeden's Lucia, bringing food to her mother, Kelly Thannam. Anna McCaskey, Kate Jones and Paula Rosenbaum portrayed Australia's Candlelight Carolers while Nancy Fienhold told the story of Italy's Bufana. Guides for the evening included Ron Baker, Amy Hodgson, Marlo Guetersloh, Carol Zang, Savilla Smith, Jennifer Zang and Marcia Cox

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Additional activities at the house included the beginning of a plan restoring the backyard. Over the Summer of 2000 volunteers began work on this project. The foliage located on the west side of the back yard was dug back and a stone path was installed leading to the stairs installed by the Yost family. Future plans will create a tiered flower garden on the east side of the yard.

We continue to plan for 2001 and look forward to the challenges to be presented. Annual events will continue to be held and new displays will be created to help enhance the museum.

The staff at the Catharine V. Yost Museum hopes that you will take the opportunity to join us for a display during this year.

H O W O S H O W O S H O W O S

SO MUCH SO MUCH SO MUCH
Hello Jennie & MK.
Thank you both so very much
for everything you did to
make the "Athens Meeting" such
a great one —

SO MUCH SO MUCH SO MUCH
Thanks, too, for all the —
"housekeeping assistance"
you both went beyond expectations

SO MUCH SO MUCH SO MUCH
I will make it up to the
two of you in some way!

SO MUCH SO MUCH SO MUCH
Love n' hugs,
Betty

SO MUCH SO MUCH SO MUCH



Jennifer Leenders and Michael Oelschlager

Engaged

John and Mary Leenders of Pontiac are announcing the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Jennifer Leenders, to Michael Oelschlager of Pontiac. He is the son of August and Marilyn Oelschlager of Graymont. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Flanagan High School and received an associate's degree from Illinois Central College. She is the manager of Big Boyz Toyz and the Sunsations Tanning Salon in Pontiac. The future bridegroom is a graduate of Pontiac Township High School and farms in the Pontiac area. They are planning a Dec. 2 wedding at the Catherine V. Yost Museum, Pontiac.

Thursday May 4

PONTIAC, Catharine V. Yost Museum, 298 W. Water St., opens today for the season. Tours of Victorian era house museum conducted 2 to 4 p.m. each Sunday, from May to the end of December. Tours can also be arranged by calling 844-7401.

Saturday, May 13

PONTIAC, Victorian Girl's Tea, in honor of Mother's Day, will be served at 2 p.m. today at Catharine V. Yost Museum, 298 W. Water St. Event includes activities geared for young ladies grade school to junior high ages and their mothers. Refreshments, entertainment.

Livingston County DAR award winners



Karl Holohan/Daily Leader

Livingston County DAR award winners for this year are, from left, Flanagan High School senior Keith Detwiler, son of John and Jan Detwiler; Prairie Central High School senior Jenna Walter, daughter of Peter and LeRae Walter; Tri-Point High School senior Abbie Moore, daughter of Mark and Diane Moore; and Pontiac Township High School senior Karen Sancken, daughter of Alan and Karen Sancken.

Daily Leader
Friday, December 1, 2000

LIFESTYLES

Catharine V. Yost Museum opens Sunday with 'Christmas Traditions from Around the World'

The Catharine V. Yost Museum will be opening for its Christmas season this Sunday, Dec. 3, from 2 to 4 p.m. This year's display features "Christmas Traditions from Around the World."

Each country celebrates Christmas in different ways, with different customs and different beliefs. This display will feature these cultural differences and highlight the features of the celebrations which make each so special.

One featured country is Poland. In Poland the family dines together on Christmas Eve. For good luck the table is set with an odd number

of dishes, but an even number of diners. The empty place setting at the end of the table is saved just in case a wandering stranger should need a place to dine. This tradition assures that no one will be turned away from a Polish home on the eve of Christmas. After dining the family gathers together and awaits the arrival of Star Man. Star Man wanders from home to home accompanied by the Star Boys. Once entering the home he quizzes the children on their religious lessons. Each child giving correct answers receives a gift; each child giving incorrect answers gets chastised.

The museum is open for tours every Sunday in December from 2 to 4 p.m. Guests to the Victorian home will be treated to a display featuring Christmas customs from countries such as Sweden, Poland, Mexico, England, Germany, Ireland and Italy. Additionally, evening tours will be given on Dec. 17 during Pontiac's Luminaria Celebration. A special display will be presented that evening which includes music, costumed characters and some extra surprises.

For information regarding tours please contact the museum at 844-7401.

Yost Museum hosts cultural Christmas

By THERESA SCHOPP
Pantagraph Pontiac bureau

PONTIAC — Music and costumed characters will highlight the Christmas display during Pontiac's annual luminaria celebration from 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the Catharine V. Yost Museum.

Guests to the Yost Museum, 298 W. Water St., will be treated to Christmas customs from countries such as Sweden, Poland, Mexico, England, Germany, Ireland and Italy in the Christmas Around the World display.

"Each country celebrates Christmas in different ways, with different customs and belief," said museum curator Jennifer Zang. "This display will feature these cultural differences and highlight the features of the celebrations which make each so special."

Stars are the most prominent symbol of the holiday for Poland. Holiday customs from this country include the Star Man, who wanders from home to home quizzing the children on their religion lessons. Each child receives a gift for a correct answer, Zang said.

Other holiday folklore explored by the museum's display include St. Lucia of Sweden and Bufana of

Italy. Character actors Sunday will play out the legend of St. Lucia as she brings gifts to the children of Sweden.

The legend stems from the story of how she gave her wedding dowry to the poor.

The legend says that after her death, the ghost of Lucia returned to Sweden to provide for those in need. As part of the holiday tradition to honor St. Lucia, Zang said, each Christmas morning the oldest daughter in a Swedish family portrays Lucia and brings breakfast to her parents as a symbol of Lucia bringing food.

Bufana

Italy's celebration features Bufana, who also will be portrayed Sunday.

Bufana was a homemaker who was said to be sweeping in front of her home when the three wise men passed by searching for baby Jesus. According to legend, the men asked her to join in the search but she had too much to do to join them.

The next day, Bufana regretted her decision and began her own search for the child.

In Italy, the story has been passed down that Bufana still



The Pantagraph/M.K. GUETERSLOH

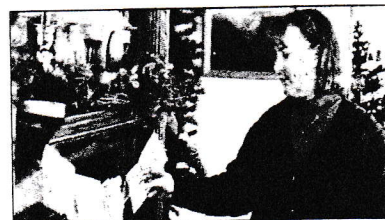
Catharine V. Yost Museum curator Jennifer Zang hung Christmas cards from a mantel in the museum. The tradition of sending Christmas cards originated in England, one of the countries featured in the museum's Christmas Around the World display.

searches for the child, presenting gifts to all good children she meets along the way.

For information regarding tours, contact the museum at (815) 844-7401.

Friday, December 15, 2000

News in brief



Pontiac's annual luminaria celebration is set to entertain guests from 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the Catharine V. Yost Museum. The festivities will include music, costumed characters and a display of international Christmas customs. Story on A6

PONTIAC

Yost Museum sets Christmas program

The Catharine V. Yost Museum will start the holiday season by hosting its annual Christmas open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The open house display will feature "Christmas Traditions from Around the World." The Victorian home at 298 W. Water St. will showcase Christmas customs from Germany, England, Poland, Italy, Mexico, Sweden and Ireland.

Visitors also will learn the tradition of Christmas cards, Christmas trees and holiday folklore from Poland, Italy and Mexico.

For information regarding tours, call (815) 844-7401.

Daily Leader

Saturday, December 2, 2000

Sunday, Dec. 3

PONTIAC, Catharine V. Yost Museum opens today with Christmas display "Christmas Traditions from Around the World." Hours are 2 to 4 p.m. every Sunday in December. Evening tours given Dec. 17 during luminaria celebration. For more information, call 844-7401.

Catharine V. Yost Museum

Plans

&

Budget

for

2001-2002

The Catharine V. Yost Museum Committee and Livingston County Historical Society are planning some major improvements to the museum as well as general maintenance projects for the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

The most significant improvement planned is the painting of the exterior of the museum which was last painted in August of 1993. Currently the paint is beginning to peel and fade, diminishing the overall appearance of the house.

The Committee has approached the Yost Trust for funding of this project. We estimate that the cost will be up to \$12,000.00. The trustees have indicated that funds will be provided for this project.

A second exterior project is to improve the lighting of the front of the museum. During the Christmas season we place a spotlight in the front of the house to highlight the sleigh and garland on the front porch. We would like to make this lighting permanent.

We plan to contract outside labor for these projects and have budgeted accordingly.

We also have some general maintenance suggestions that we hope can be performed by the City maintenance department. Some of these are securing basement windows, repairing rotted window frames and replacing broken window locks which allow the top pane to drop. There are also some problems with broken and missing downspouts, mainly at the southwest corner of the house.

Occasionally the Committee will notice a minor repair needs to the facade such as a missing or broken board. We would like to be able to ask for Milt's assistance on small projects like these at his convenience.